(3) Dry land farming methods are being propagated with emphasis on drought resistant Agricultural crops and Horticulture crops. Agro forestry crops also are being propagated. Mixed farming systems are also encouraged.

(4) Rain water harvesting and other soil and water conservation activities are being taken up under Watershed Mission specially created for this purpose.

TM on Dairy Development

3330. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing a Technology Mission on Dairy Development;

(b) if so, whether it is being implemented in Rajasthan also;

(c) whether desired results of the Mission have been achieved; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The Technology Mission on Dairy Development was launched in August, 1988 which ended on 31st March 1999, also covered Rajasthan. Under this Mission 5374 additional Dairy Cooperative Societies were formed for providing animal health care; 2079 Dairy Cooperative Societies for artificial insemination, vaccination etc; frozen semen production increased from 108 lakh doses to 241 lakh doses per annum, production of additional 9538 MT of high quality fodder seed and establishment of a model system of bulk procurement, storage and delivery of liquid nitrogen for artificial insemination programme was undertaken.

MSP for oilseeds and pulses

3331. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have hiked the Minimum Support Price for oilseeds and pulses, in a bid to encourage crop diversification;

(b) whether Government have also decided to hike the price of wheat by Rs. 10 per quintal for 2002-2003 marketing seasons;

(c) if so, what are the other decisions taken; and

(d) to what extent it would be helpful to farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The Government of India have increased the Minimum Support Price for Oilseeds and Pulses by Rs. 100 per quintal while the MSP of Wheat by Rs. 10 per quintal. The details of MSP fixed for various crops for 2002-03 marketing season are as under:

Commodity	MSP (Rs. per quintal)	Increase in 2002-03 over 2001-02 Marketing Season (Rs.)
1. Wheat	620	10
2. Barley	500	—
3. Gram	1200	100
4. Masur (Lentil)	1300	100
5. Rapeseed/Mustard	1300	100
6. Safflower	1300	100

The increases effected in the MSPs are expected to provide incentive to the farmers to invest and improve production and productivity and encourage diversification of crops.

Suicide by cotton farmers

3332. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cotton growing farmers who committed suicide during the last one year;

(b) the reasons for their taking such an extreme step; and

(c) the details of measures taken by Government to avert such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) During 2001-02, the Government of Karnataka reported 79 cases of suicide by farmers. For 2001-02, no other State has reported suicide by farmers.

(c) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments concerned to take necessary measures in this regard. The Government of India supplements